



Poudre School District Board of Education

2407 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521 • 970-490-3607

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from Board of Education Special Meeting
December 8, 2020

ELECTRONIC BUSINESS MEETING (VIA ADOBE CONNECT) – 4:30 PM

PRESENT: President Christophe Febvre, Vice President Rob Petterson; Directors DJ Anderson, Nate Donovan, Kristen Draper, Naomi Johnson and Carolyn Reed; Assistant Superintendents Todd Lambert and Scott Nielsen; Executive Directors Dave Montoya and Victoria Thompson; Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Adams

ABSENT: None

LATE: None

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Febvre called the special meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Petterson moved to add an executive session to discuss the hiring of a search firm for our next superintendent to the agenda, to be placed before the adjournment of the meeting.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

3.0 BOARD TOPICS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Febvre read a statement in support of Superintendent Smyser's service to PSD, noted numerous accomplishments during her years of service, and discussed district measures to move forward with hiring a new Superintendent.

- Board members expressed appreciation for Superintendent Smyser's service to PSD.
- Director Johnson provided an update on the Student Think Tank meeting and noted a group name change will be announced at the next meeting.
- Directors Anderson and Donovan provided an update on the CASB Convention.
- Director Draper provided an update on the CAC.

4.0 COMMUNITY COMMENT

Jenny Marquart asked the District to put children first by opening schools in January, and stated health experts report schools should remain open.

Parent Jennifer Kennedy expressed appreciation for the hard work done during challenging times, shared a personal story of the struggle with remote learning, and requested the District consider student mental health when deciding to return to in-person learning.

Kelly Holdridge asked the District to be proactive about staffing shortages and reach out to the community to find more substitute teachers, as well as consider outside companies to provide custodial and food service help.

Parent Zach Thode voiced gratitude for the Special Ed program at O'Dea Elementary and reminded Board members about the importance of daily in-person learning for Special Ed students.

Parent Sarah Kintzley stated it is comforting to know her students will receive a nutritious meal as part of the free/reduced lunch program, and added it is difficult for many families to get to food locations to take advantage of the much needed help.

Parent Angie Lindsey revealed that remote learning is terrible for her children and recounted the frustration of a typical day trying to help her five children with on-line learning.

Tom Griggs congratulated Dr. Smyser on her retirement and expressed disappointment that the EDAC Committee is not active.

Parent Michelle Gliszinsk stated the remote model of learning is not sustainable, asked how students can make up for lost time, and expressed interest in sending students back to in-person learning.

Cheryl Distaso conveyed appreciation to the Board for leadership during tough times and asked for an update on the SRO outreach plan and reports.

Parent Peter Goode requested PSD prepare now to return students to in-person learning and stated virtual learning is not working.

Anna Dunn expressed appreciation to the Board for making a series of difficult decisions and requested PSD reconsider SRO participation in the safe-to-tell hotline due to a potential overlap between mental health issues and the legal system.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Personnel Action

5.2 Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2020, November 10, 2020, November 23, 2020 and November 24, 2020

5.3 Mountain Sage Community School Safe Schools Reopening Grant Application

5.4 Ridgeview Classical Schools Charter Renewal Application

5.5 Approval of a Limited Scope Agreement for the Building Automation System (BAS) Project at Poudre High School

5.6 Approval of a Limited Scope Agreement for the Building Automation System (BAS) Project at Blevins Middle School

5.7 301 Airpark Lease Amendment

- 5.8 State of Colorado Response, Innovation, and Student Equity (RISE) Education Fund Application for Poudre High School and Wellington Middle School**
- 5.9 Approval of a Limited Scope Agreement for the Fire Alarm Replacement Projects**
- 5.10 Colorado Department of Education Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) District-led Grant**
- 5.11 Board Adoption of Revisions to Policy FF – Naming District Sites and Facilities (Second Reading)**
- 5.12 Board Adoption of Revisions to Policies DJ, DJA, DJB, DDA, DJG/DJGA and DN (Second Reading)**
- 5.13 Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2020**
- 5.14 Quarterly Financials (CAFR 6/30/2020 and 9/30/2020)**
- 5.15 Farming and/or Grazing of Poudre School District Owned Land at Mountain Vista and Cherry Heights**
- 5.16 Authorizing Resolution for 301 Airpark Drive**

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve and adopt the recommended actions for the items on the Consent Agenda.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 2020 Fiscal Year External Audit Related Documents

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2020, the Accreditation Report, and the Board Resolution Authorizing the Use of a Portion of Beginning Fund Balance, as included in the Board packet including the final Governance Letter and Opinion letter provided after the board packet was distributed.

Director Draper seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- Documents were discussed in the Audit Committee.
- Audit Committee presentation will not be required this year.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

6.2 Mill Levy Certification

Director Donovan moved that the Board approve the Mill Levy Certification and read the resolution aloud.

Director Johnson seconded the motion.

Board discussion included:

- General Fund Budget is approximately \$300 million.
- Override levies are 20% of the \$300 million operating budget.
- Gratitude was expressed to community members for providing needed funding for PSD.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

6.3 Monitoring/Policy Review: EL 2.3, Financial Condition and Activities

Director Donovan moved that the Board of Education determine that the Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Board of Education Policy EL 2.3 in her Internal Monitoring Report dated 12/8/20, and that the evidence presented supports the Superintendent's conclusions stated in the Internal Monitoring Report.

Director Anderson seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed 7-0

Board recessed at 6:00 p.m.

Board reconvened at 6:07 p.m.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 School Year Update

Assistant Superintendents Scott Nielsen and Todd Lambert provided an update on the school year to date.

Board discussion included:

- Elementary attendance is 94%, and secondary is 93%.
- Enrollment remains open for remote learning support.
- Remote learners are receiving full-day instruction four days a week.
- PTECH program blends well with the Futures Lab.
- Gratitude was expressed to middle and high school counselors for work completed in advance of the 2021 registration process.
- Staff are targeting Phase 4 learning for Fall 2021.
- Food service in the hard-to-reach neighborhoods is occurring by bus.
- 1,000 students are currently being bussed for boost sessions.
- Students may go to any PSD school to get food.
- Some remote sites are serving food 5 days a week.
- All innovative options for in-person learning will be considered.
- Phase 3 is the most complicated to produce.
- Staff are considering options for learning loss, including summer enrichment.
- Second forecast for the Colorado budget will be released December 22.

7.2 Budget Update

Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya and Budget Director Brett Parsons provided a budget update.

Board discussion included:

- Coronavirus Response Reserve funds will be expended this year.
- Use of other reserve funds will be necessary.
- Student enrollment is down approximately 900.
- Budgeting Average concept averages current enrollment plus previous four years.
- Data analysis in January will inform action for the upcoming year.
- Higher staff employment this year due to PSDVirtual.
- Fewer staff will be required next school year if student numbers remain lower.

8.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Johnson moved that the Board enter executive session as authorized by C.R.S. 24-6-402(b) and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e), to receive legal advice and determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, develop strategy for negotiations, and instruct negotiators, relating to the hiring of a firm to provide services to the school district in its search for a new superintendent. Individuals invited to join the Board in executive session are Executive Director of Finance Dave Montoya, Executive Director of Human Resources Vicki Thompson, Legal and Policy Counsel Autumn Aspen, Attorney Darryl Farrington, and Assistant Board Secretary Jill Brunner.

Director Donovan seconded the motion.

The voting was as follows:

Those voting AYE: Directors Anderson, Donovan, Draper, Febvre, Johnson, Petterson and Reed

Those voting NO: None

ABSENT: None
Motion passed 7-0

Executive session began at 7:33 p.m.
Executive session ended at 8:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Brunner
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education